

February 29, 2008 - Slaughter Announces Federal Funds for Food and Shelter Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday,
February 27, 2008

Rep. Slaughter Announces Nearly \$1 Million in Federal
Funds for Emergency Food and Shelter Programs in NY28

Washington, DC – Rep.
Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee,
today announced that almost \$1
million has been awarded to New York's 28th District by
the Emergency Food and Shelter (EFS) Program to provide for the
nation's hungry and homeless.

"This program has played an essential role in providing families in need with food and shelter for the past twenty-five years," said Rep. Slaughter. "Today, we face an increasing demand on our shelters from the working poor, and I am grateful that a program like this exists for those who are struggling to make ends meet in Western New York. I will continue to support programs that provide the resources to give those families the help they so desperately need."

Funding will be allocated to Erie, Monroe, and Niagara counties for \$498,670, \$360,046, and \$131,208 respectively.

Some organizations that received funding in the past include the Charles Settlement House and the Community Place of Greater Rochester in Monroe County, Family and Children's Service of Niagara and Newfane Community Food Pantry in Niagara County, and the Buffalo City Mission and the Food Bank of Western New York in Erie County.

BACKGROUND:

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program began in 1983 with a \$50 million federal appropriation to help meet the needs of hungry and homeless people throughout the United States by providing federal funds for food and shelter. The EFS Program, appropriated annually under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, provides supplemental funds to approximately 12,000 agencies for the prevention of homelessness, while providing food and shelter services.

The EFS National Board, chaired by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and composed of representatives from non-profit organizations, provides supplemental funding to shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks. One-month awards for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance are also available. The funds are used to help individuals and families with non-disaster, temporary emergency needs.

In each funded jurisdiction, a Local Board advertises the availability of the funds, establishes local priorities,

selects local non-profit and government agencies to receive supplemental funding, and monitors program compliance. With this FY 2008 allocation, more than \$3.105 billion in federal aid will have been disbursed through the EFS Program since its creation to communities nationwide, and has accounted for millions of meals and nights of shelter to the hungry and homeless across the nation.

###